

POLITICAL FATCATS

POLITICAL FATCATS
DON'T CARE ABOUT THE HUNGRY,
THE POOR, THE HOMELESS...
THEY DO CARE ABOUT THEIR IMAGE
SO AROUND ELECTION TIME
THEY PROMISE EVERYTHING
FROM A CHICKEN IN EVERY POT
TO A JOB FOR EVERYBODY
THEY SHOUT FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP
VOTE FOR ME I'LL SET YOU FREE!

POLITICAL FATCATS SIT IN HIGHLY
DECORATED OFFICES AND FLY TO
FLORIDA FOR LUNCH BETWEEN DEBATES
MONEY IS GRACIOUSLY GRANTED
TO STUDY WHY BIRDS FLY SOUTH
IN WINTER OR THE SEX LIFE OF
THE BUMBLE BEE
BUT RIDDING THIS NATION OF
CANCEROUS RACISM THEY JUST
AREN'T ABLE TO SEE
STILL THEY SHOUT FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP
VOTE FOR ME I'LL SET YOU FREE!

A BILL TO RID GHETTOES OF RATS
IS SOLIDLY DEFEATED
BUT THEN HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF
POLITICIANS HAVING RATS...
I SUPPOSE RATS ARE ALLERGIC TO POLITICAL FATCATS
DON'T HOPE
JUST VOTE
FOR THE MORNING AFTER
THINGS WILL STILL BE THE SAME
THERE'S A GAME PLAYED IN THE WHITEHOUSE
THE PRESIDENT IS THE CAT AND WE ARE
THE MOUSE
BUT WATCHOUT POLITICAL FATCATS!
TOMORROW YOU MAY BE SLIM
CATS
CHASED BY FAT RATS.

James Brown
1981

"QUESTIONS"

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE
ABOUT FREEDOM
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE
WITH YOUR VOICE
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE
WITH YOUR WOMAN AND
CHILDREN
HAVE YOU EXERCISED A
POLITICAL CHOICE?

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE
WITH YOUR TIME
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE
WITH YOUR SPEECH
HAVE YOU LAUGHED
AT SOME FORLORN STRANGER
HAVE YOU LEARNED AND
DARED NOT TEACH

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE
ABOUT JUSTICE
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE
ABOUT CRIME
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE
ABOUT PEOPLE
WHO PLAY WITH YOUR
LIBERTY AND MINE

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE
TO HELP OTHERS LEARN
OR DO YOU SHUN RESPONSIBILITY
NOW THAT ITS YOUR TURN
HAVE YOU HELPED THE BLIND
AND CRIPPLED
WITH A SMILE AS YOU OPEN
THE DOOR
OR DO YOU DELIGHT IN YOUR
PERSONAL COMFORT
AND MAKE FUN OF THE SICK AND
POOR
ARE YOU GROWING AND PAVING THE WAY
SO THAT GENERATIONS
TOMORROW
WILL HAVE A BETTER DAY

JAMES BROWN
© 1981

SWEET POTENTIAL

YOU BURN MY TOAST
SPOIL THE ROAST
AND THEN YOU BOAST
THAT I AIN'T THE MOST

WHEN I'M COMPOSED
YOU'RE INDISPOSED
OFTEN TEMPERMENTAL
BUT THAT'S O.K.
YOU GOT SWEET POTENTIAL

YOU PLOT AND SCHEME
THEN YOU CALL ME MEAN
IF I SAY LET'S GO
YOU ALWAYS SAY NO
BUT THEN YOU RAPISCES
AND I'M VIRGO
THIS MIGHT BE CONSEQUENTIAL
CAUSE YOU GOT THAT SWEET POTENTIAL

IF I WANT SCOTCH YOU WANT RYE
IF I TELL YOU WHERE
YOU WANNA KNOW WHY
WHEN I TELL THE TRUTH
YOU CALL ME A LIAR
WHEN I'M ON FIRE
YOU HAVE NO DESIRE
DESPITE ALL YOUR VICES
THE DIFFERENTIAL IS
YOUR SWEET POTENTIAL

IF I WANNA GIVE
YOU'D RATHER TAKE
IF I SAY FRIED CHICKEN
YOU'D WANT IT BAKED
IF I WANT JAZZ
YOU WANT POP
IF I WANT SPIRITUALS
YOU GOTTA HAVE ROCK

WHEN I'M BEING COOL
YOU TAKE LIBERTIES, AND CALL ME A FOOL
IF I COME HOME
WITH KISSES AND FLOWERS
YOU WANNA KNOW WHY I'M LATE AN HOUR

ANY WAY I CHOOSE
I ALWAYS LOSE
I KNOW YOUR VICES
ARE NOT INTENTIONAL
AND THAT'S WHY YOU GOT THAT SWEET POTENTIAL.

"THAT FEELING"

I FEEL THAT FEELING COMING ON
I FEEL THE LUST
I FEEL THE FIRE
I FEEL THE PULSE
A HOT DESIRE
I FEEL THAT FEELING COMING ON

I FEEL THAT FEELING COMING ON
I WANT TO FINGER JAZZ YOU
I WANT TO TOUCH YOU AND CARESS YOU TO

I WANT TO DO EVERYTHING TO GIVE PLEASURE TO YOU
'CAUSE I FEEL THAT FEELING COMING ON
STRONG
INVITING
SLOWLY
IGNITING
I FEEL THAT FEELING COMING ON...

James Brown
1982

DIALOGUE

HIDING BEHIND YOUR MARIJUANA AND COKE,
YOU KEEP TELLING ME TO "GET IT TOGETHER"
YOU SPEAK OF GOLDEN SUNSETS AND PRIMROSE PATHS
TO ILLUSTRIOUS DREAMS

THE PATH I SEE IS STUDDERED WITH JAGGED STONES
THAT DO NOT GLOW IN THE NIGHTMARISH
DARKNESS OF STRUGGLE AND DEFIANCE

PERHAPS YOUR FALSE, "MIND-HIGH" DOES MAKE YOU SOAR TO
THE SKY WHILE I JUST SAG WITH THIS HEAVY LOAD

I KEEP TRYING TO EXPLAIN IN LOGICAL SEQUENCE THE
ANSWERS....
AND YOU KEEP GIVING THE SOLUTIONS IN DISJOINTED PARABLES
MY ADVICE IS PERMANENT, LOGICAL, AND COLD
YOUR SILLY NOTIONS FLUCTUATE WARM AND INVITING
BETWEEN YOUR "HIGHS AND LOWS."

James Brown
1982

"EVIL BLACK MAN"

I'M AN EVIL BLACK MAN
GODDAMN
MY LAUGHTER IS A NASTY
HOWL
AND IN MY MOST PLEASANT MOMENTS
I ISSUE FORTH A GROWL

WHEN PEOPLE SAY
DON'T YOU EVER SMILE?
I REPLY, MAYBE I WILL IN
A FUGGING WHILE

I LEAVE GENTLENESS AND ~~MECKNESS~~^{WACKNESS}
TO LAMBS
CAUSE I'M AN EVIL BLACK MAN
GODDAMN!

MY HAND SHAKE IS A CLENCHED FIST
AND IF YOU LOOK AT ME LONG
I'M PISSED
MY SMILE IS A SLIGHT FROWN
AND MY COMPLEMENTS ARE A
NASTY PUTDOWN

I AIN'T LOVING
KIND OR DEMOCRATIC
CAN'T STAND RELIGION
OR UNCLE SAM
CAUSE I'M AN EVIL BLACK MAN
GODDAMN!

James Brown
1982

Great Expectations

All day long she entertained
The thought of his impending visit
What would he smell like
And what would he say,
Would he wine and dine
Her?
Caress and respect her
Would he murmur sweet nothings
In her ear
And proclaim his affection most
Dear — For the entire world to
Hear?
Would he come a courtin'
In the latest fashions
Carrying roses and expensive
Perfume?
Would his words play on her
Mind,
Like a rapturous wine
And envelop her being toward
Some wild passion overtime?
All day long she entertained the
Thought of his impending visit
At last, he arrived:
He knocked on her door
Wearing soiled jeans, reeking of
Cheap wine, shouting
Unpoetically.
What's happenin' mamma!
Hey mamma, what's happenin'!

James Brown

Mystique

If I try to be romantic
And call you my squeeze
You remind me that brillos are
For squeezing.

So I call you foxy momma
And you say now can I be
Both a fox and a momma
That's inconsistent.

So I call you my girl
And you rap that girl stuff
Is male chauvinistic.

So I simply say
Hey you, come here!
Then you say
Unquestionably
O.K.

James Brown

" THE PLAY"

THE CURTAIN
OPENS....
SHE BEGINS HER ACTING . . .
THE PLOT IS ONE OF
CONQUEST
AND THE STAR MUST
HAVE HER WAY
FROM THE OPENING LINE
TO THE END OF THE
PLAY
SHE DEVISES A
MEANS SCENE
TO STEAL BY
ANY MEANS
THE MAN SHE LOVES
HER ACTING CAPTIVATES
HER LANGUAGE PENETRATES
HER ACTIONS CONFLICT
BECAUSE HER PORTRAYAL
IS TOO STRICT

SHE DOESN'T DEVELOP
IN THE COURSE OF
THE PLAY
~~SO~~ THE DRAMA FLOPS
WHAT WILL SHE DO?
BLAME THE GUY WHO
GIVES HER 'PLAY'
A BAD REVIEW

JAMES BROWN
© 1981

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